

Update from Mayor Jo Ann Graves

City on Solid Ground: **Rewarded with Prestigious Bond Rating**



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The 2010-11 Budget for the City is set and I am proud to say that – once again – there are **no new taxes, no cuts in services and no employee layoffs. We have also preserved employee benefits and the Rainy Day Fund is intact and untouched.**

The City of Gallatin is in sound financial shape. We worked diligently to use tax dollars wisely and hold the line as the economy recovers. Because of our fiscal constraint, important projects continue to move forward to benefit our citizens.

The City of Gallatin's debt is now rated in the prestigious "AA" category by both Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investors Service—the two most well-respected credit rating agencies.

These credit ratings are used by investors to judge the financial strength and credit worthiness of borrowers in the municipal bond market.

Maintaining credit ratings of this strength from two credit rating agencies makes the City's bonds attractive to potential investors and results in significantly lower borrowing costs for capital improvements.

Standard & Poor's currently rates the City's General Obligation Debt "AA-". As part of a rating recalibration, Moody's recently revised their rating of the City's debt to "Aa2" - the same rating the agency has assigned to Sumner County's debt.

These prestigious credit ratings are due to the City's fiscal restraint during uncertain economic times. The City Department Heads, Council and I have worked very hard to allocate the citizens' tax dollars wisely. That is why, even in an economic downturn, I am proud to say Gallatin has neither raised taxes nor cut services. The City is on solid ground.

Mayor Invites Citizens to Meet With Her After Hours

Mayor Graves invites citizens to join her after hours for *Mayor's Night In*.

"Not everyone can visit my office during regular business hours," Graves said. "That is why I began *Mayor's Night In*

few months ago. Anyone is welcome to drop by after hours to share concerns, ideas or get updates on the business of the City."

Mayor's Night In is the fourth Monday of every month.

- ◆ **Mayor's Night In**
- ◆ **Monday, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22**
- ◆ **4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.**
- ◆ **No Appointment Necessary, Just Drop In**

Visit the City's Website: www.gallatinonthemove.com

City of Gallatin

2010-11 Budget:

- > **No Tax Increase**
- > **No Reduction in Services**
- > **No Employee Layoffs**
- > **Preserves Rainy Day Fund**
- > **Preserves Employee Benefits**

Farmers Market Now Open
Wednesdays & Saturdays
7am-2pm
160 W. Franklin Street



Citizen Survey Results Provide Valuable Input: Rail Service Ranks #1 for Mass Transit

Results of the Citizen Survey conducted earlier this year provide valuable input and suggestions. Mayor Jo Ann Graves explained when reporting the results to the City Council recently.

"I want to thank every citizen who took time to complete the survey," Graves said. "Hearing what is important to the citizens is critical as we plan for the City's future."

Results of the survey are posted on the City's website at www.gallatinonthemove.com.



The hanging flower baskets put out annually downtown are an overwhelming favorite of citizens & visitors.

Following is a summary of the results:

- 64% prefer receiving updates from the Mayor via an insert in their GPU bill
- 18% prefer e-mail
- 7% prefer local news media

Mass Transit Options

Rail Service ranked #1 by 12% over Rapid Bus Service and 34% over Van Pools and Park & Ride.

Completed Projects in Order of Importance

1. Downtown Revitalization
2. Farmers Market
3. Widening Belvedere Drive
4. Comprehensive Land Use Plan
5. New Industrial Park

Current, In-Process Projects in order of Importance

1. South Water Revitalization
2. Greenway
3. Increased Cultural Events
4. Airport Expansion
5. Wireless Connectivity Downtown & in City Parks

Areas of Growth in Order of Priority

1. Recruit Business, Industry, and Increase Job Base (this ranked 46% higher than all other priorities combined)
2. Quality of Life Components—parks, recreation, cultural events and other activities
3. Environmental & Energy Efficiency Improvements—preserving green spaces; clean water innovations;

additional recycling options; convert City fleet to hybrid or electric options; convert lighting to LED

4. Participate in cooperative efforts with surrounding counties to achieve common economic, infrastructure and/or technology goals
5. Launch a Small Business Incubator in conjunction with Vol State Community College
6. Additional bike and pedestrian paths throughout the City
7. New Roads

Many survey respondents added written comments. The majority indicated the number one road priority for citizens is Hwy 109 from I-40 into Gallatin including the new 109 Bridge over the Cumberland River. See more on the 109 Bridge below.

Project Updates:

South Water Underway, 109 Bridge Set for Fall Bid-Letting

Many of the projects that Citizens have ranked as their priorities for the City are either underway or moving closer to construction. Here's an update on a few of those projects:

South Water Revitalization

South Water from Maple Street to Bush Avenue is being improved by adding sidewalks, bike lanes, and repaving with a center turn lane. This project is funded 100% through TDOT.

109 Bridge Over the Cumberland River

TDOT has this project on track for a fall bid-letting. The bridge will be widened to five lanes and will include sidewalks, lighting and other improvements. This is funded with state and federal highway dollars.

Broadway/N. Water Realignment

Construction is well underway and on schedule for completion by the end of the year. The realignment and new traffic signal will improve safety. This is a TDOT funded and managed project.

Energy Efficiency Improvements

The City has received a grant from the TN Dept. of Economic & Community Development that will allow improvements to the lighting in the Civic Center and City Hall. These improvements will save taxpayer dollars.

Big Station Road & Bridge Realignment

Improvements to the intersection of Nashville Pike/Cages Bend/Big Station Road are on schedule for completion by the end of this year. This project is funded primarily through TDOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

Town Creek Greenway

The City's first greenway is under construction. The asphalt and concrete path runs from Triple Creek Park along Town Creek, under Hwy 31, and continues to Perrolee/N. Westland. This section is funded 100% through TDOT.

If you have any questions about these projects, or any other projects in the City, please call the Mayor's Office at 451-5961.